



MUSLIMS BLAST ABDUL JABBAR FOR COORS AD

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)—The Islamic Society of North America has condemned NBA Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul Jabbar's appearance in a Coors beer ad and wants him to renounce it.

Sayyid M. Syeed, secretary general of the Plainfield, Ind.-based society, called Abdul Jabbar's appearance in the television spot "deplorable."

Alcohol is prohibited in Islam, he said.

Abdul Jabbar, a devout Muslim, makes a cameo appearance in the Golden Brewery ad in which the former NBA star joins a group of men cavorting in the snow-covered Rockies.

The ad is part of a series that shows young, giant-sized people bounding over snowy peaks, playing volleyball or some other sport.

Syeed has called on Abdul Jabbar to ask Coors to drop the ad or donate his compensation to institutions that fight alcohol use.

"Alcohol is totally prohibited in Islam," he said. "Not only the drinking of alcohol but shipping, serving or promoting alcohol, or

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CREATION OF U.S. TASK FORCE SPURRED ARRESTS IN CHURCH BURNINGS

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the seven months since President Bill Clinton ordered a federal task force to oversee investigations into a rash of church burnings, authorities have made 104 arrests—eight times the previous rate, the government reported Saturday.

So far, 48 of those suspects have been convicted. But as of last week, there were 221 pending investigations where no arrests had been made.

The administration touted its record in a report issued by the Treasury and Justice departments on behalf of the National Church Arson Task Force.

Of all the 143 suspects arrested since Jan. 1, 1995, in connection with 107 church fires, Clinton said: "They offended every citizen who cherishes America's proud heritage of religious and ethnic diversity, every citizen who remembers that religious freedom, justice and equality are the founding principles of our great democracy."

WOMEN, MINORITIES, LABOR GIVE WHITE HOUSE THEIR WISH LISTS

WASHINGTON (AP)—They delivered votes for President Clinton last fall, and now women, minorities and organized labor say it's Clinton's turn to deliver.

Their main demand is that Clinton direct more resources in the fiscal 1998 budget to all federal agencies that enforce laws against discrimination. That argument was made in a hate crimes report compiled by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, an umbrella group of 180 organizations.

A draft of the report, obtained by The Associated Press, says that if more help had been given to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for example, the Texaco discrimination case might have been resolved earlier and more efficiently.

Smaller agencies in need of help, the report said, include the Justice Department's Community Relations Service and the Agriculture Department's office of civil rights.

The report also calls for:—Revision of the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 and expansion of it to include crimes based on gender.

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POLICE RELEASE KILLER'S SKETCH



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police have released a sketch of the man they presume killed Ennis Cosby, the only son of entertainer Bill Cosby.

A friend who went to help Ennis Cosby's car a few days before the murder told police she drove off when she saw a suspicious man. When she returned minutes later, she found Bill Cosby's son dead, a newspaper reported Friday.

Police also have a second witness, a private security guard who was patrolling the area, KCBS-TV reported. They also picked up a possible piece of new evidence at the crime scene.

The woman told police that Cosby, 27, was on his way to see her when he telephoned to say he would be delayed because of a flat tire, the

New York Daily News reported.

She went to see if she needed help and spoke to him briefly before returning to her car to keep warm. She left when she saw a suspicious man walking along the road, the newspaper reported. When she returned, she found Cosby crumpled at the side of his Mercedes-Benz with a single gunshot wound to the head, the report said.

At first, police said the woman was too shocked to give them a description of the attacker, however, after speaking with her again, she described a white male of average height and weight in his late 20s who was wearing a light-colored jacket.

Police refused to comment on published or broadcast reports, citing safety concerns for the witness, a 47-

year-old screenwriter identified by the newspaper.

Cosby was gunned down after he pulled off the San Diego Freeway sometime before 1:45 a.m. Thursday to fix a flat tire. Police say he may have been the victim of a roadside robbery attempt.

Williams said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that the killer "was only there for a few moments or a few seconds, but we don't know what was in his mind."

The elder Cosby and his family were in seclusion at an undisclosed location on the East Coast. Funeral plans were incomplete.

"Everybody feels like they lost a son," Cosby publicist David Brokaw said.

Thornhill Cosby, Bill Cosby's

uncle and the former head of the Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP, said his nephew was deep in grief.

"He said he and Camille were preparing to talk to police," he said. "He had very little to say other than the family is suffering along with everyone else."

Ennis Cosby, a Columbia University doctoral student, taught science students at the Alfred E. Smith School, a public elementary school on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Students sobbed after learning of his death, and the school held a moment of silence on Friday. "Some children cried. Some were just stunned," Principal Jorge Izquierdo said.

Ex-Packer scores by feeding hungry

by Jan M. Edgerton Johnson

ASBURY PARK—Every Sunday, John Brockington leaves his home in Colonia, New Jersey and heads down the Garden State Parkway to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church where he and others serve in the church's Sunday Feeding Program. However, this coming Sunday, John, a former member of the Wisconsin Green Bay Packers will be in New Orleans rooting for his team as they vie with the New England Patriots for the Superbowl championship. Of course, John is excited by his team but he volunteers a little and his face lights up when he talks about the soup kitchen or as he refers to it, the "Love Kitchen."



John and Rasheda Leone compare logos on their sweatshirts.

For five years, from 1971-1975, John was a running back for Green Bay. For the last four years, he has faithfully served in the feeding program in Asbury Park.

How did he get from there to here? John noted that Asbury Park's Assemblyman Thomas Smith is his mentor and is largely responsible for his involvement with the feeding program. "I've been coming to Asbury Park for a long time and St. Augustine's is the church that Assemblyman Tom Smith attends. Well, I went there a couple of times and I fell in love with the people there and everyone works so hard for the community. I wanted to get involved," he told City News in a recent interview.

With the feeding program specifically, John talked about how he had



John Brockington and little helper Lynette Hines

seen so much hunger growing up as a child and today, due to corporations downsizing, so many people are having a hard time making ends meet.

"We should be able to reach out to people and help them," he said. "So many children you see go hungry because their parents really don't have the money to feed them. I also see this as a way of reducing crime because people who don't have food will do whatever they can to get something to eat."

John explained that he is a born-again Christian and according to the Bible he is obligated to look out for the poor.

John hopes to expand the feeding program to Trenton and Newark. "The need is so great in those areas," said John. He has already begun contacting people in Trenton and Newark.

Jobs and housing and other personal issues also part of the plans for expanding the program.

"I've been speaking with several corporations and businesses in the hopes of them taking in some of the people that we send to them. We're looking to build a wholesome type of love kitchen. Now we give out clothing and furniture when we have it in; we really try to do as much as we can."

To help finance and meet the needs of the programs needs, a concert featuring the Manhattans, Soul Generation and The Escorts will be held on March 14 at the Paramount Theater in Asbury Park. The tickets are \$25 and John is asking corporations and businesses particularly to buy blocks of tickets for the event.



John with other volunteers in the "Love Kitchen"

"Hopefully, this show and others will help us raise enough money to do the type of things we need to do for the community," said John.

John has other causes that he works on too, like the Cancer Society in Woodbridge. Often times he uses his relationships with other professional athletes to get them involved;

so next time you see one of the Giants or the Mets serving meals don't be surprised if they know John.

Is John a full-time angel, "No, I'm just a born-again Christian," he told us as we ended our interview.

Tip: We asked John who would win the Superbowl and without a pause, he declared Green Bay is "unstoppable."

Welfare reforms boost economy

NEWARK—While critics fear that New Jersey's new welfare program will devastate the state's already embattled urban centers, welfare reform could actually boost their economies, according to New Jersey's leading African American public policy think tank.

"We suspect that welfare reform can create economic opportunity," said Guy C. McCombs, III, president of the New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute (NJPPRI). "If the new programs are well designed and managed, they could benefit individuals as well as their communities. For example, the programs could stimulate business growth in areas such as transportation, child care, Pre-K education, job training and job placement."

In last week's State of the State address, Governor Christie Whitman lauded the Work First NJ welfare program now being considered by the state legislature. New Jersey's program was designed to comply with the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which President Clinton signed into law last year. The legislation eliminates the guarantee of cash assistance for individuals, imposes a lifetime, five-year limit on cash assistance, cuts off assistance to new legal immi-

grants, mandates that most recipients work a minimum number of hours, and requires teen mothers to live in adult-supervised settings.

New Jersey's program, Work First NJ, also caps assistance at five years. It requires adults to be working, actively seeking work, or be engaged in job training or vocational education in order to receive benefits. The program includes support services for those entering the work force, such as child care, health care coverage through Medicaid, limited emergency assistance, transportation vouchers, and work expense vouchers. The state legislature is expected to vote shortly on enabling legislation that will make the program law. NJPPRI will conduct a major study of the impact of Work First NJ on African Americans throughout the state. The institute will use focus groups, surveys, roundtable discussions and town hall meetings to gather data and formulate policy recommendations for state government.

"Welfare reform, humanely shaped and properly implemented, can work to the advantage of all citizens of this state," noted McCombs. "But if it poorly designed and managed, it will fail to achieve these laudable goals. The program must

see WELFORM REFORMS/page 3

Rainbow Coalition, Mitsubishi reach accord

NEW YORK—Today, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and Mitsubishi Motors announced a joint covenant that will act as a catalyst to bring over \$500 million in new investment and economic opportunity to African Americans, other minorities and women.

On what is the actual birthright of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Jackson also launched the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition International Trade Bureau on Wall Street.

The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., president and CEO of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, called it a boycott of Mitsubishi Motors products in the U.S. after the federal government sued the auto manufacturer on behalf of hundreds of employees who complained of both sexual harassment and racial discrimination at its Normal, Ill. plant.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) joined the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition in calling for massive demonstrations and picketing. After several months of discussions and six months after Jackson led a delegation to Japan and Indonesia to meet with Mitsubishi executives, the company agreed to become "trading partners" with African Americans, women and minorities.

Mitsubishi Motors reaffirmed its commitment to ensure that in its U.S. operations, race discrimination and sexual harassment becomes non-existent and will enforce strict policies forbidding such behavior on behalf of its employees at all levels.



Rev. Jesse L. Jackson

The covenant includes policies and programs to accomplish goals in areas of employment and advancement of hourly and salaried employees and executive and senior management representation, business development and dealerships, financial services including mortgage banking and portfolio, insurance (corporate and employee), pension asset management, including venture capital, technology, advertising and marketing, legal services, professional services, purchasing, memberships and policy development.

Covenant Summary:—MMSA will initiate discussions immediately to bring back to

work several women employees

—MMSA has agreed to create a Supplier Development Department.

—MMSA has agreed to commit appropriate legal resources to identify the facts of the legal case as rapidly as possible.

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America detailed programs that will act as a catalyst to bring over \$200 million in new investments, salaries, real estate, marketing, services and products into the African American and other communities of color.

—MMSA has established a five-year target to increase its African American, Latino and women-owned dealerships to 15 percent of its dealer body.

—MMSA has announced an extensive grassroots recruitment and training program to bring entry-level African Americans, other minorities and women already in the industry.

—Mitsubishi Motors dealers will assist MMSA in developing a program that establishes direct management assignments within the dealership network to provide hands-on management experience for African Americans, other minorities and women.

—MMSA will establish a special

See ACCORD/page 3

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, & 30

NEW YORK—Barnes & Noble celebrates "New Beginnings: A Month of Growth" each Thursday. Featuring Forrest Church, Tobias Jungreis, Lit Neporent and Faye Wattleton. All events are free and open to the public. For more information call (212) 727-4810.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

NEWARK—The Newark Literacy Campaign is seeking VOLUNTEERS to become READING PARTNERS for adults, teenagers and children. Training and orientation begins 1/14, for more information call (201) 623-4001.

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 p.m. and a regular meeting at 8 p.m.

CALDWELL—Caldwell College will host a Public Broadcasting System (PBS) sponsored video conference "Exposure: The Naked Truth: Use and Abuse of the Internet" from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, in the Alumni Theatre. For more information, call (201) 228-4424 ext. 323.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

WESTFIELD—The offices of the NCADD (National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) of Union County are offering a seminar on "Sociocultural Influences on Adolescent Development from Puberty to Young Adulthood". To register, call (908) 233-8810.

BRANCHBURG—The Fine and Performing Arts Department of Raritan Valley Community College will sponsor in their Art Gallery an exhibit called "Landscapes as Metaphor" until Feb. 13. For more information, call (908) 218-8876.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Ruth Laredo and Gary Watkins performs work by Brahms at the Nicholas Music Center, Rutgers. For more information and tickets, call (908) 932-7511.

FAX your events to 908-754-1036.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

NEW YORK—Author Cheryl D. Broussard (Sister CEO, The Black Woman's Guide to Starting Your Own Business) will be at Barnes & Noble, Rockefeller Center, 600 Fifth Ave. She will discuss topics such as planning, finding the right niche, raising start-up funds, and more. For more information, call (212) 755-0582.

CRANFORD—"The Graven Image" art exhibit will be presented at Tomaiauto Art Gallery, Union County College. The exhibit will open with a reception from 7-9 pm in the Gallery. For more information, call (908) 709-7155. Leave message.

PLAINFIELD—The students of Gill St. Bernard's will be serving soup and sandwiches they have made to members of the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center, North, 305 East Front St. For more details, call the Center (908) 753-3506.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

MIDDLETOWN—African-American History Celebration in Tatum Park, Red Hill Center, Red Hill Road. On Feb. 2. For more information, call (908) 842-4000, Ext. 245 or 235.

ATLANTIC CITY—NJ Military Man March Coalition is having a State-Wide Veterans' Meeting at 6pm in the Atlantic City Complex located at 323 Madison Ave. For more info, call 1 (800) 627-2419.

UNION—The Model Railroad Club, Inc. sponsors registration for its next series of workshops in basic and advanced techniques of scale model railroading. For more information call (908) 964-9724.

PLAINFIELD—Literary Volunteers of America Main Workshop, 9:30 am at the Public Library. For more information, call (908) 757-1111.

PLAINFIELD—Storytime with Jan Sade, 11:00 am at the Public Library, 1000 N. 1st St. For more information, call (908) 757-1111.

First municipal court administrator in the nation



The Giblin Association contributes \$500 to NAACP



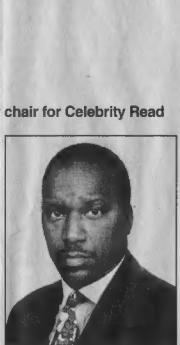
Bundy appointed publicity chair for Celebrity Read

Alfred Bundy, founder and president of Bundy Productions, was named Publicity Committee Chair for the United Way of Essex and West Hudson's 1997 "Celebrity Read" program. The Program, which has been in existence since 1990, brings celebrities into inner city classrooms to promote love for reading, respect for others, and responsible life choices.

Bundy brings to the "Celebrity Read" Program over 17 years of experience in the production and public relations field. Currently, he serves as the chairman for the cultural programming for the Cable Television Network of New Jersey (CTN), as well as commentator for several New Jersey television cable companies. He also serves as producer of the state-wide television series "State of the Union,"

Rebecca Mason, assistant chief court administrator for the City of Newark, recently became one of the first officially certified municipal court administrators in the nation. The New Jersey Municipal Court Administrator Certification Program was established by the New Jersey Legislature last year to attain growth and development and promote public confidence in the municipal courts, and attract qualified court administrators. Candidates must complete a rigorous, examination which includes: education and training; written and oral examinations; and completion of a written court-improvement project. Only one other candidate from Essex County earned the certificate.

The Giblin Association, a civic group organized in 1954 and dedicated to improvement of community life recently donated \$500 to the NAACP at the Giblin Association Community Service Awards Breakfast. Shown (L-R): Receiving the donation is NAACP's Susie McGhee from Thomas P. Giblin, standard-bearer, The Giblin Association.



sponsored by local 68 AFL-CIO, and host of the weekly public affair television program "The Forum."

HOROSCOPE:

BY MISS ANNA

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Maintain optimism regarding a raise or a promotion, you are almost sure to receive it. Changes do not come easily to you, but an unexpected one in your personal life will be more accepted than most. Tend to your spiritual life.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)

It would be good to talk about your need for quite a bit of independence in your relationships, so that there is no surprises later on. Listen closely for words of love, for they might be hidden between the lines. Possessive energy may send you in the opposite direction.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

Your careful attention to loved ones may not evoke an immediate response, but realize that you are greatly appreciated. Remove your walls if you truly want to get through to someone - you have to show your own vulnerability. Take into account everyone's unique.

ARIES: (March 21 - April 20)

Patience on the homefront will eventually turn any sticky situation in your favor. A little self-sacrifice for family members will do more good for you than them. Try not to insist on perfection - you will be in for considerable frustration.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)

Avoid playing the victim. If you are feeling left out in the cold, it is probably because you have not made your needs known to others. Speak up, and you will see an immediate difference. Some of your suggestions, especially at home, may be met with resistance.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

Be sure to take care of your own needs - which may mean taking a little time out for yourself. Usual routines have to be altered, so snap your ego in the bud and behave with courtesy towards others. The comb of acting from the heart while using your head is unbeatable.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

There seems to be a sensation of aloneness. Relationships, especially your mate, need extra attention - state your needs carefully and diplomatically. Your skills in the workplace are greatly appreciated and will likely be financially rewarded.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)

Don't let your ego get the best of you this week, inducing you into something foolish. This may not be the right time to control the situation. Someone you love presents you with a special gift of time and attention. Show your appreciation for as treasure this is priceless.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)

You seem to be on top of the world this week. This positive energy could be coming from a number of areas; perhaps your love life is improving, or some unexpected success in business, so enjoy it! A large part of your joy comes from the sense of striving to be best.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)

Your ideas are good ones, but you must be willing to accept input from others - bend, so you don't break. There are some bitter feelings resulting from betrayal of someone. Work on building back the trust you've lost. Remember that change is a constant.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 23)

Insist on both quality and honesty in your dealings with others. Keep in mind that the absolute truth is hard to come by, you have access to only your personal truth and perspective. Emotional situations require a decision from you. Your choice may be difficult but for the best.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)

Romance is in the air during the week. If you are presently unmarried, pay attention to those sexual attractions with someone who is kind and has lots of common sense. You have a tendency to be lazy-recognize the difference between rest and being a couch potato.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)

Do something extravagant. Although money is usually associated with this activity, it is your most precious commodity. Take some for yourself. Family life will be a joy right at times is your most precious commodity. Review joint assets and reconsider long term investing, now, everyone's getting along great. Review joint assets and reconsider long term investing.

Sing in Praise of King

NEWARK—Former U.S. Congressman and religious leader, Dr. William Gray, will be keynote speaker at the City of Newark's Ninth Annual "Sing in Praise of King" celebration honoring the late Nobel Prize winner and civil rights leader Sunday, January 26, 3 p.m., at Hopewell Baptist Church, 785 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd. in Newark.

The annual Ecumenical Service will include remarks from Reverend Jason Juice, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, as well as reflections from Bishop Nicholas DeMarzio, Catholic Community Services in Newark; Imam Ali Minin, Masjid Mohammed-Newark and Rabbi Barry Friedman, Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston.

According to Mayor Sharpe James, "It is because his messages are timeless that we pay an annual tribute to Dr. King. Human rights, equality and justice for all of God's children are issues that have yet to be resolved."

"Having visited the City of Newark one week prior to his assassination, Dr. King and his message have a special significance to city residents," continued James. "Most of us, in one way or another, have benefited from his efforts to attain equality for all, regardless of race, creed, color or gender."

Celeste Bateman, supervisor of the City's division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs and tribute coordinator said, "We are looking forward to hosting Dr. William Gray at this year's King tribute because he is a man who epitomizes Dr. King's legacy. His reputation as an honest, forthright representative in Congress has followed him into his career as CEO of The College Fund/UNCF. He is a humanist who strives for excellence for himself and for his people," continued Bateman.

As the head of America's top black organization providing assistance for higher education since 1991, Gray has helped raise approximately one third of the total \$1 billion garnered by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) in its 50 year history. He also pioneered numerous initiatives, including the development of a new technology center to electronically link UNCF offices with member colleges and relocating The Fund's headquarters to Washington, D.C.

He has been a staunch supporter of education since his days in the U.S. Congress, where he was the first African-American to chair the House



Dr. William Gray

Budget Committee and used this position to strengthen America's educational systems.

A Baton Rouge, Louisiana native, Dr. Gray is the heir to a legacy of educators and ministers. His father, the late Dr. William H. Gray, Jr., served as president of two historically black colleges, Florida A&M University and Florida Memorial College. His mother was a dean at Southern University in their hometown. His grandfather was a college professor, as is Dr. Gray's sister.

Following in his grandfather's and father's footsteps, Gray has been pastor of the \$5,000 member Bright Hope Church in Philadelphia for more than two decades. He began his ministry in 1964 as pastor of Union Baptist Church in Mount Airy, New Jersey.

The multi-cultural event is designed in cooperation with the following organizations: the United Negro College Fund, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of MetroWest, The Jewish War Veterans Association, Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry, State of New Jersey Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Commemorative Commission and the Urban League of Essex County.

The program is free and open to the public and includes musical selections by The Mighty Royal Travelers, Pro-Vision and The Wonder Boy. Light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following services.

Join The
100 Most
Influential.
Honor
those who
help to
build the
black
community



For information call (908) 754-3400

City News Publishing Company

invites you to nominate
your candidate for the

Second Annual 100 Most Influential Award

Event: May 1, 1997

For information call 908-754-3400

(Please only use official nomination form below)

Recognizing the 100 Most Influential who have fostered the progress of black people or the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers

You must use this form or one from City News to nominate a person for the 100 Most Influential. You must identify yourself and a phone number where you can be reached. The 2nd Annual 100 Most Influential will be held May 1, 1997.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. Deadline is February 1, 1997.

Nominee's name

Address City State Zip

Home phone Business phone Fax

Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.

Your name Phone

Address City State Zip

How do you know this person?

Send to: City News 100, PO Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07060 or fax to (908) 753-1036.

For information call (908) 754-3400.

Nominee Categories: Please check one category

- Education
- Minority Business Enterprise
- Entertainment & Sports
- Health, Science & Technology
- Religion
- Economic & Community Development
- Corporate/Community Involvement
- Politics, Law & Government
- Media, Arts & Culture
- Civil Rights

Who is making a difference in your community?

Tell City News about them.

FAX: attn: CN People at 908-753-1036

Mail to: CN People at P.O. Box 1774

Plainfield N.J. 07060

Jabbar blasted

Continued from page 1

participating in feasts or parties where alcohol is served. All these are bad."

Cosrs spokesman Dave Taylor said there have been no complaints about the commercial.

"I would think Abdul Jabbar knows the parameters of his religion, and he felt the ad and his role in it were in good taste and appropriate."

Lorin Pullman, a spokeswoman at Abdul Jabbar's Los Angeles publicity firm, said the would consent the company's attorneys and try to reach the NBA star for comment.

"One does not have to be an expert on the Koran to know that (alcohol prohibition) is a basic fundamental doctrine in Islam," said Mohamed Jodeh, president of the Colorado Society.

Jodeh said Muslims even instruct their financial advisers to avoid investing in businesses with ties to alcohol.

"It's the last thing one would expect from Kareem Abdul Jabbar, to do something with Cosrs," said Jodeh, whose organization represents 20,000 Muslims. "What was he thinking of?"

Accord

Continued from page 1

Market Investment-Support Program to ease the financial requirements for African Americans, other minorities and women to purchase dealerships.

MMSA will provide support required to assist in obtaining facilities for the dealerships established under the company's new program.

—MMSA is expanding its minority-vendor program to include an African American-owned advertising agency.

—MMSA is in the process of hiring senior-level African American executives for its headquarters office in Cypress, Calif. and recently elevated a female executive to U.S. Board of Directors.

—Mitsubishi Motors will expand its Washington office to include a new position, manager of diversity relations.

Representatives of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, NOW, NCLR, NCLR, NAMAD and MESA will meet quarterly for the first year of the covenant and semi-annually thereafter, in order to measure the progress of commitments and explore mutual trade relationships. MMA also announced that the report by former U.S. Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin and further steps the company is taking to create a model workplace, will be released within a month.

Wish List

Continued from page 1

—Allowing the Census Bureau to implement a plan to improve its tally of minorities and poor people in the upcoming census, in place gathering hate crime data easier.

—Compiling work at the United Nations convention on eliminating racism by submitting detailed reports on hate crimes in the United States and steps that are being taken to eliminate them.

Clinton's team has been quietly assembling a civil rights agenda for his second term, working from the president's stated desire to deal with ethnic and racial divisions in American society.

"How can we prove in America that we can all get along, without giving up our basic beliefs but in finding a ground of mutual respect? It seems to me that that may be the single most significant decision facing the United States," Clinton said at a White House breakfast with clergy last week.

Don't miss out.
Nominate New Jersey's 100 Most Influential!
Deadline is Feb. 1

See page 2 for form.

By John William Templeton
Special to the NJP

Not all the news from Africa is bad news. As of Dec. 31, Zimbabwe's stock market recorded a 70 percent gain from 5,000 to 8,500. Ghana's equity exchange was up 40 percent by year's end and Mozambique had a 26 percent increase in foreign investment.

On Jan. 25, Angola's long-awaited government of national unity will be sworn in, with South Africa's President Nelson Mandela putting the pros to former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, in his role as head of the 12-nation Southern African Development Community.

The crisis in the Great Lakes region is real, but it should not obscure

some of the most hopeful news from the world's second largest continent in 40 years, nor the sources of real problems.

Kofi Annan's first speech after his ascension to the post of United Nations secretary-general may not have been the most historic speech by a Ghanaian in New York during December. The address of San Jose, chief executive of the \$2 billion mining conglomerate Ashanti Goldfields of Kumasi, Ghana, to the New York Society of Securities Analysts' first seminar on investment in Africa may actually do more to increase the paucity of \$4 billion in foreign investment that goes into Africa. Joseph Zimbabwe's A.M. Chambari, South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa and other business leaders are increasingly becoming the new face of Africa to the outside world.

The kind of oligarchy represented

Not all the news is bad from Africa

by Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko and Nigeria's military regime with the attendant diversion of national wealth being put into private hands is becoming increasingly untenable in large part because of the peer pressure of governments that are making progress in meeting the needs of their people while attracting international investment. More than 2,000 enterprises—from airlines and steel mills to glass factories and hotels—are in the process of being sold into private hands by government owners across the continent, fueling the growth of a dozen new stock markets.

The citizens of the affected countries are eager to share in the wealth creation. The initial public offering of Kenya Air attracted 200,000 individual investors. South Africa's exchange has added several new Black-owned companies built from acquisitions from the large mining conglomerates

brokered by the new Black-majority government.

One of the impacts of the torrent of disaster news from Africa is to blind Americans to the potential markets and investment opportunities. The top five nations investing \$450 million into Mozambique last year were Portugal, South Africa, Britain, Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

African Americans are particularly affected by the notion of Africa as a place to be ashamed of, as witnessed by the performance of some national "leaders." Dr. Leon Sullivan, whose Sullivan Principles helped turn the business success on South African apartheid, is once again taking the initiative in turning those sentiments around with the Fourth African-American/American Summit June 20-26, 1997 in Johannesburg, South Africa and Harare, Zimbabwe. Prior to this year, the summits were held every

two years. Some 47 African heads of state attended The Summit in Dakar, Senegal last May.

Planes are taking off from 19 American cities to ferry U.S. participants on a journey across the southern part of the continent. Sullivan has always been my pick as the epitome of a "black leader" because of his insistence on practical results, from the Opportunities Industrialization Centers to the Sullivan Principles to the summit. You don't hear him speak often, but you see his work around the globe. Like him, all Americans should understand that we have a vested interest in the Sullivan Principles to the summit. That interest must extend beyond constructing the precious metals and energy for our economies, to making a reciprocal investment in raising living standards. Unlike the failed foreign aid strategies of the past, we can even make a profit, in the process.

And the winners are... presenting the winners of the American Teacher Awards

HOLLYWOOD, CA.—Ruby Zell Sutton, a Physical Education and Health teacher in Wilmington, North Carolina, and David Williams, a Foreign Language/ESL teacher in Baltimore, Maryland, won the outstanding teacher award in their subject categories at the seventh annual "The Walt Disney Company and McDonald's Present The American Teacher Awards," held last month in Hollywood.

Sutton's alumni, including basketball superstar Michael Jordan, seem to benefit from her guidelines. Jordan has said, "She made me do what was right, and she pushed me to keep my grades up," Sutton states. "To me, making a positive difference in the development of all children but especially in those who may be considered 'at risk,' is the most fulfilling experience any individual can have."

Williams, a master teacher of foreign languages and English for speakers of other languages, has an unwavering insistence upon academic excellence coupled with a sincere interest and concern for every student he teaches. "I take great pride in establishing a quality educational program for the benefit of our children, for they are our most precious commodity," said Williams.

More than 1,500 teachers nationwide submitted applications which included descriptions of their teaching philosophies, as well as letters of recommendation from their school principals and teaching colleagues. A golden pool of each teacher was also created. This summer, a selection committee comprised of representatives from the nation's leading education organizations reviewed the applications and video profiles and selected 36 teachers, three in each of the 12 subject categories.

American Teacher Awards 12 categories: Athletic Coach, English, Elementary, Performing Arts, Science, Visual Arts, Early Childhood, Foreign Language/ESL, Mathematics, Physical Education, Social Studies, Vocational/Technical Education.

Each of the 36 honorees gave a



Ruby Zell Sutton



David Williams

short presentation to the selection committee to be used with the applications and video profiles to select one honoree in each category as the outstanding teacher of that subject.

The American Teacher Awards honors the teaching profession and gives outstanding educators the recognition they deserve. "We salute their generous dedication and positive impact they make on their students' lives," said Ed Rensi, president McDonald's USA.

McDonald's is the leading food service retailer in the global consumer marketplace with more than 20,000 restaurants in over 100 countries. More than 84 percent of McDonald's restaurant businesses are locally owned and operated by independent entrepreneurs.

To submit applications for the 1997 awards, or for more information, please write the Walt Disney Company and McDonald's present the American Teacher Awards P.O. Box 9805, Calabasas, CA 91372.

Welfare reforms

continued from page 1

sensitive to the needs of those it serves, it must focus on constructive action, not punishment. Thoughtful and realistic consideration must be given to issues such as eligibility, job availability, cost of living, support services, and the role of non-profit and for-profit organizations in delivering services," he stressed.

"New Jersey's current welfare system serves about 385,000 people in different programs," noted McCombs. "However, the system affects thousands more in less direct ways. Neighbors, relatives, local shopkeepers, employers, bankers, day care and health care providers, and more—all stand to feel the effects of the changes to the system. We will look at these changes and how they affect both individuals and the broader economy."

The institute will seek help from state residents as it conducts its research. "We want people to share

with us their concerns and their hopes. We want them to tell us what information they need. We welcome calls and correspondence to us at our Newark office," McCombs said.

Founded in 1978, the New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute has consistently addressed public policy issues affecting New Jersey's African American residents for nearly 20 years. The institute conducts research and publishes reports on topics including jobs, housing, education, health care, the justice system, and the arts.

NJPRI also sponsors roundtable discussions, host lectures and workshops and publishes occasional papers on critical issues. The institute maintains headquarters in downtown Newark.

What do you think about welfare reforms? Write a letter to the Editor, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07061

Human rights field operation in Rwanda detention of 5460 returnees

GENEVA—Some 5,460 recent Rwandan returnees were being held in detention throughout Rwanda as of December 31, 1996, according to a January 6, report from the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR) of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The detainees are among the 1 million former refugees who returned to the country from camps in Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania starting in mid-November 1996. Around 473,082 returnees arrived in eastern Rwanda from Tanzania between December 14 and 31, while 555,000 have come back from Zaire since November.

A majority of the returnees from former refugee camps in Ngara and Karagwe in north-eastern Tanzania were originally from Kibungo and Mutara Prefectures and arrived in Rwanda by foot via the Rusumo border crossing, the report indicates. In Kibungo Prefecture, 2243 returnees are in detention, while 676 are being held in Mutara Prefecture. Local authorities in some communities in Kibungo have responded to the large number of arrests by releasing detainees accused of common crimes.

According to the Operation, the number of arrests in Kibungo and

Mutara Prefectures in the first weeks of the return was significantly higher than that recorded during the return to the northern prefectures of refugees from camps in Zaire in mid-November, when after two weeks only 162 returnees were being held in detention. Part of the explanation for the difference lies in that more people were killed during the genocide in Kibungo than in the northern prefectures of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, home to a majority of the refugees that went to Zaire. The context in which returnees left countries of asylum is another factor: unlike the camps in Zaire, where organizers of the genocide were reportedly able to take advantage of war conditions to escape, many organizers of the genocide sheltering in Tanzania were unable to flee and were compelled to return to Rwanda.

The Human Rights Operation also reports that 310 members of the former Rwandan Armed Forces have been registered in Kibungo; registration figures for Mutara are still being compiled.

As for the treatment of returnees, the Operation continues to receive reports of ill-treatment in communal detention centres and during interrogations, as well as of illegal arrest procedures. Of particular concern is

the level of tension between the local population and recently-arrived returnees in Kibungo. For example, between December 20 and 26 the Operation received reports of five separate incidents in which seven people had been killed. The Human Rights Operation has also been told of difficulties in Kibungo with the implementation of the Government's directive that all occupied houses should be vacated two weeks after the return of the refugees. The problem is particularly acute in that area as more houses were destroyed there than in the north-west, and many of the first returnees settled in the region. In the Rusumo commune of Kibungo, for example, a quarter of all houses—some 3,000 out of 12,000—were destroyed.

In another report also dated 6 January, the Operation welcomes the first genocide trials in Kibungo, Kigali and Byumba in Rwanda from December 27, 1996 to January 3, 1997. The operation is concerned, however, over several aspects of the proceedings in Kibungo, in particular the lack of respect for the right to a defense as guaranteed by Rwanda's justice system and by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Rwanda is a party.

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EDITORIAL

Dr. King: a Celebration of Hope

Each year, as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and reflect on his speech "I Have a Dream," it fills many of us with hope, at times anger and a new sense of determination. It gives us hope because he shared his dream and the realization that America's promise was a check marked, "insufficient funds."

Dr. King gave us his vision of what America should and could be like. We believed the dream. It fills us with anger because his assassination seemed to be the devil's way of denying us King's vision or even seeing the dream become a reality. It angers so many of us because, we see, since his death, that rather than moving to accomplish the dream, America still wants us to accept a check with insufficient funds.

It angers us because we know that if there was as much energy put into building schools to create achievement as there is put into building prisons, we would move further toward achieving Dr. King's dream. There would be less crime!

We know that if there was as much effort put into creating capital for expanding and growing businesses, there would be more jobs and less welfare! We know that if there was as much effort put into rebuilding urban centers and creating wealth in those centers, there would be less poverty and the agencies serving the poor could benefit from the strength of their own communities.

Our anger can fuel positive action, making us determined to see the dream passed on to our children so they may strive to make it a reality. It is imperative, now, more than ever that our children know the hope and God's promise to take us to the mountain top that Dr. King shared. We must help them keep the dream alive.

What is black English?

by Sharon Benjamin

What is Black English? How can anyone describe a "language" spoken by African-American people in their neighborhood as "Black English" when there are African-Americans in other neighborhoods who would seem to be speaking a legitimate foreign language were they to attempt to converse in an area where this supposedly "Black English" is spoken. A January 13, 1997 "Newsweek" article mentioned that Ebonics, first coined in 1973 refers to a grammatically consistent and rich African-American speech pattern with roots in West Africa. "Whoever coined the word 'Ebonics' with the above reference must not have been in contact with the same caliber of West Africans with whom I have attended college and worked. There was not one that spoke in the broken, grammatically incorrect speech that is being promoted as having roots in West Africa. In fact, my acquaintances would be (are) extremely articulate, always using correct grammar. I wonder if some West Africans are insulted by this reference.

Don't call it Black English. Call it what it is - broken/bad grammar. There is not one person in my totally Black household that speaks in such a way and neither did I grow up in a home where such was spoken. In fact, even though my mother and father respectively completed only eighth and third grade education, my mother was always correcting my siblings and my speech. Neither of my Black friends, nor do their children, speak in such a manner.

A December 22, 1996 Associated Press article mentioned the American Speech Language and Hearing Association as having classified Black English as a social dialect and gave examples of commonly used words such as "wif" for "wife" and "goo" for "good." If these examples are indicative of the Oakland, California School Board's decision to officially recognize Black English as a second language, then the students are in big trouble. This appears to be nothing more than a true indication of shiftness and laziness - mainly on the part of the parents and educators.

With all the gains made by the Civil Rights Movement, why would anyone attempt to undermine the already tenuous process of the advancement of Black children? Furthermore,

why would anyone of color even suggest such a damaging program and then attempt to get federal funding for its promotion. I was extremely pleased to learn that the Clinton Administration denied the request for funding such a waste.

To not only recognize, but be willing to "teach" speech that has been an obstacle for so many African-Americans is an atrocity. As if it hasn't already been embarrassing enough to be the star of the star African-American athletes play so well on the field or court and then speak so poorly at press conferences, the Oakland School Board approves of their students using bad grammar. This puts the community to shame. Let me ask - is there a move to come up with Black Baseball, Black Football, Black Track or Black any other sport. Then why should Black students be ridiculed for their foolishness as "Black English?" An athlete that becomes involved in a sport plays by the rules set by a specific athletic board and not by rules established in the neighborhood. The same should apply for learning English.

If Black students in the Oakland California School District, or any other school district, are underachievers, don't lower standards of achievement or blame the students, but rather, blame the parents and the teachers. You don't "translate" bad/broken grammar, you correct it.

by Sharon Kradonich-Vincenz
City News Columnist

The initial fervor over the "Ebonics" issue has started to die down. However, it has moved their focus on to other topics, such as how should be the new hot and sensational headline or lead story to titillate and excite the public. This is unfortunate, because regardless of your views on the topic, it has caused at least people (for a very brief time) focused their attention on an educational issue.

Whatever may have been the original intent of the Oakland, California School Board when they prepared and issued their resolution, the attention it received sparked hot and heated debate. The fallout and controversy the issuance of this resolution caused, ironically, resulted in many people participating in discussions and debates about what children should learn and how it should be taught. Unfortunately, without the controversy, many people would not have thought about or voiced any thoughts or opinions on this important issue. Therefore, while the Oakland School Board may have clumsily mishandled this particular event in a public relations point of view, and the intent of the resolution is questionable, I'm glad the events unfolded as they did because it helped to spark the general public's interest (if

"When I tell you it's got worse than Newt Gingrich, it's got to be bad," a member of the Congressional Black Caucus who asked not to be identified told me regarding House Republican leaders Richard Armitage and Tom DeLay, the men next in line to succeed Mr. Gingrich. Mr. Armitage is House Majority Leader, and Mr. DeLay - described as a "maverick" by one Capitol Hill source - is Republican Whip.

"When it comes down to it," an African-American source in the office of a White House aide told me, "they are both (Messrs. Gingrich and Armitage) demots. Gingrich is more the pragmatist, less the ideologue. He recognizes that there can be a down side to using divisive racial issues to advance his political and he'll shut it off."

"Someone like Dick Armitage, on the other hand, will go to a full frontal attack. He's much more ideological, less pragmatic. He's not as sensitive, and has been less vocal on civil rights issues," the staff source said. While Mr. Armitage opposed last year's legislation which increased the minimum wage, Mr. Armitage, a source said, actually supported legislation to eliminate the minimum wage altogether.

Many Democrats, however are

angry at Mr. Gingrich for his role, 10 years ago, in bringing down Democratic House speaker Jim Wright (D-Texas) who ran into ethical questions over the publication, financing and sales of a book. The Wright case was, in fact part of the launching pad for Mr. Gingrich's career in his party's leadership. The irony today is that a similar book deal, involving much more money, is one of the complaints filed against Mr. Gingrich.

Even the Black staff members working for the two men reflect a great deal of comfort for Gingrich than with Mr. Armitage. A source told me that Mr. Gingrich once employed an African-American woman as his Administrative Assistant and Chief of Staff, and that his current top Black staffer is much more accessible and reasonable than Mr. Armitage's highest ranking African-American who was described as "extremely rigid" - just like his boss.

While both Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Armitage supported legislation in the 104th Congress to abolish affirmative action outright, the difference between them is more degrees of where to make the resulting standard. Mr. Gingrich never permitted that legislation to be debated on the House floor, or for a vote to be taken on it.

Black issue dies slowly

only for a moment) and put the spotlight on a number of important issues.

It's imperative that we remain engaged in the discussion, review and critique of all subject areas of the curriculums being taught in our schools. The Oakland School Board has passed and made it into a resolution. They have made it clear that they are committed to ensuring that all their students learn and master standard English. While linguists can debate the historical origin and validity of "Ebonics," it shouldn't cloud or delude us from dealing with our present realities. In order for our children to have an opportunity to be successful and achieve their academic and career goals in this society, they must be able to converse and communicate in standard English. We shouldn't expect that all students be able to do so. The standard of English and all required curriculum content areas before they are allowed to graduate from high school. Our young people need these skills in order to be able to survive and compete in the global marketplace of the economy. We should look ourselves over to them to think and believe otherwise. To do so, is to set them up for failure.

The academic performance results of the Oakland school system are totally unacceptable but, unfortunately mirror some of the statistics we see in poor urban school districts all

across this country. Over 64% of the students retained each year in the Oakland School System are African-American, 80% of those students suspended are African-American, 71% are in special education classes and 20% of those students who do not graduate from the 12th grade are African-American. There is enough blame to go around, from the top to the bottom of every school system share similar results. When you get past all the rhetoric, excuses and theories, the simple truth is that there are a lot of people who are simply not doing their job well. This includes, parents, teachers, administrators and students.

As I have listened to the various arguments and discussions about "Ebonics" over the past few weeks, I found myself remembering and reflecting back on some of the various books, articles and writings I have read over the years from many different educators. In particular, I pulled out some of the writings and materials I have obtained from one of the most outstanding educators in this country and the world, Mrs. Marva N. Collins. Collins wrote:

"...Let no child know that they lack the resources, the inner-capacities and potentials to defy statistics...To let others know that they can predict, but only God and them can determine...No child ever doubt their own minds because we as educators are unsure of our

commitment to make their true possibilities a reality."

Our children do and can master English and any other subject area required. We shouldn't use our time to use any excuses for not striving to meet, achieve and exceed any of the standards academic requirements. Those teachers who have to have the commitment, desire and dedication to improve and update their skills and talents. Their training should be focused on how they can motivate and make our students to a higher level of achievement. I don't support spending money on the training of teachers, administrators and other school personnel that doesn't at least accomplish that goal.

It teachers lead by example, their fluency, mastery and articulation in the various subject areas should be seen and utilized as a model for their students. This isn't occurring; that's one of the reasons why we are having so many problems. As Marva Collins also said:

"...Let us create in our classrooms leaders for the future so that failure and inferiority will die unborn. Let us dare to be what we would like for our students to be for example, speaks louder than a thousand words."

We have had far too many words and not enough examples. Striving to change that equation will help move us along the path towards academic excellence that we need to be on.

Symbolically, Mr. Gingrich wins again on style points, often quoting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and "making reassuring noises" on civil rights and equal opportunity. He apparently even got his personal staff politics as environmental and civil rights activist. He has been accessible and appears to have been cooperative with local D.C. leaders, including embattled Mayor Marion Barry and with Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) the Delegate to the House representing otherwise disenfranchised D.C. residents.

"Because (Mr. Gingrich) sees D.C. as the Capitol of the United States," the CBC member said, "that historically the Republicans have let it sink into the mire." Gingrich has even been in the House rules, so to speak, in order to allow for local government administrator programs, and even to function when the rest of the Federal government was shut down over the budget impasse. But Armitage? Armitage would push D.C. into the gutter."

"On most policy," the CBC member said, "I can't think that people with your ideology or mine, will not say I've got it by me. I can't think of a standard academic requirement on, but he is a more pragmatic politician than either Dick Armitage or Tom

NPCBW fight to add Sojourner to suffrage statue

WASHINGTON, DC - Continuing a battle begun during the final days of the 104th Congress, National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW) officials declared war, vowing that the Woman Suffrage Statue will not be raised without the inclusion of Sojourner Truth's image.

"Raising the statue for public display without correcting the intentional omission of Sojourner Truth would be an affront to her legacy," said Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, NPCBW National Chair and Convening Founder. "She was a woman of strength and vision who led the struggle for parity among women and the women's suffrage movement. African-American women are not longer invisible and their contributions to this nation should not be as well."

Presently located in the crypt of the Capitol Rotunda, where it has languished for the last seventy-five years, the Woman Suffrage Statue salutes the achievements of Susan B. Anthony, Lavinia Lloyd Dock, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who have had an opportunity to study photographs of the statue say that it has been disfigured and its inscription removed, leading many to conclude that a tribute to Sojourner Truth was intentionally omitted.

White women have always wooed the support of African-American women for their causes. The Women's Suffrage Movement was no different. For women, the vote represented the key to their empowerment. But for African-American women, the Suffrage Movement was both a tool for feminist and racial equality. The two camps joined forces to achieve the power of the vote. In 1918, with the support of President

Woodrow Wilson, the Anthony Amendment guaranteeing all women the right to vote, received the necessary two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives, but to gain passage in the Senate, several southern senators threatened to filibuster.

The white suffragists asked that African-American sisters to defer their demand for the right to vote on the grounds of "expediency." The legislation passed. Dr. Tucker added:

"Just as the efforts of African-American women to advance the women's suffrage movement were sacrificed to expedite Congress' passage of the Anthony Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, public recognition of the courageous deeds of Sojourner Truth were sacrificed to ensure Congress approval of the Women's Suffrage Statue. And that is wrong."

Sojourner Truth, a true Renaissance woman, is acknowledged as one of the foremost leaders of the 18th century who aggressively worked for parity in race and sex. She labored for the abolition of slavery as well as women's suffrage. She walked with and campaigned for presidents and was revered as one of the most eloquent speakers of the time. History has recorded her many contributions to advancing the plight of both women and African-Americans. As a political activist, she campaigned for Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential election. In 1875, when the women's suffrage movement was being executed, her civic responsibility she demanded that the Board of Registration place her name on the list of voters, but was denied the right to vote. She repeated her demand in 1872, when she went to Michigan to demand a ballot, but was again denied. She sat in President Abraham Lincoln's office until he

heard her suggestion for dealing with freed and unemployed slaves. She has been referred to as the "Black Joan of Arc" because of her bold deeds.

Ms. Karen Staser, President and Founder of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in the Raise The Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, admits that Sojourner Truth should be included. In her letter of November 1, 1996, to Dr. Tucker, she wrote, "We believe that, today, both Americans would agree with you that Sojourner Truth belongs in the statue...The white women honored in the statue were supported by such men as Frederick Douglass in their political activism and by other abolitionists before they became suffragists." She also reminded us that the suffrage statue has been stored in the crypt of the Capitol for more than seventy-five years. NPCBW believes that because the statue has been in this long, there should be no rush to raise it without the proper inclusion of Sojourner Truth.

In that letter Ms. Staser also wrote that the "title to the statue was conveyed to the Congress when it was accepted. It would require a joint resolution to authorize the addition of Sojourner Truth." For this reason, NPCBW and supporters of this project, have enlisted the help of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and Congressman Donald Payne and Major Owens took an early leadership role during the last of the 104th Congress to ensure that everything would be done to add Sojourner Truth's likeness to the statue. NPCBW is hoping that Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the new CBC chair, and the CBC's entire membership will play a major role during the 105th Congress and champion the necessary legislation

order to achieve their mission. It is important that this statue is representative of all women. To continue to conceal the TRUTH of the struggle would be an injustice to women everywhere."

"Raising the statue in the Rotunda of the Capitol of the United States without full representation of Sojourner Truth, a leader in women's rights of the 18th and 19th centuries, would be an insult to the American people and African-Americans who helped lay the foundation for this nation," said Dr. Tucker. People interested in correcting this injustice can call NPCBW headquarters at (202) 338-0800 for information.

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BRIEFS

SCIENCE FAIRS KICK OFF IN PLAINFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

PLAINFIELD—The wind up for the 9th annual districtwide Science Fair on February 21 at Plainfield High School has begun. Elementary and middle school students began holding Science Fairs and Invention Conventions on January 6. A schedule of school fairs is attached.

Adult judges from AT&T, Belforce and Elizabethwater Water Company have begun selecting the first, second and third place winners for each grade level in each school. The winners in kindergarten through the 6th grade will display their science project at the annual district science fair at the Plainfield High School gym from 6 to 9 p.m. Middle and high school winners will show their projects the same evening in the high school cafeteria.

Parents and the public are invited to also the schools to see the science projects and to attend the districtwide fair on February 21.

DEADLINE FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES NEARS

TRENTON—The president of the New Jersey School Boards Association today reminded citizens that the deadline for filing nominating petitions for local school board candidacy is Monday, February 24, 1997.

"I urge citizens who believe they can make a contribution to their schools to consider board of education membership," said Barbara M. Womack, NJSEA president.

"The primary requirement for effective school board membership is a sincere interest in children and their education."

School board elections will take place on Tuesday, April 15, 1997. Womack pointed out that the Association has supplied local school districts with "School Board Candidate Kits" to assist citizens, who are considering running for school board office (or seeking appointment in districts with appointed school boards). The material describes the legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, the role of the school board member, a sample nominating petition and a list of important dates in the election-candidacy process. Also included is information on the New Jersey School Ethics Act, which requires school board members to undergo training during their first year in office and to file financial disclosure forms.

To obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit," contact your local school board office or call the NJSEA Information Office at (609) 278-5202.

COMCAST OFFERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Union—Comcast Cablevision, based in Union, will offer financial assistance in the form of scholarships to 15 college-bound, high-achieving teens who live in towns served by Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey and Comcast Cablevision of life Plainfields. The Comcast Cablevision Scholarship Program, now entering its 15th year, is open to all high school seniors who live within Comcast/ New Jersey's 42 communities throughout Essex, Hudson, Middlesex and Union counties, as well as seniors who live in Comcast's Plainfield system, which serves Plainfield, North Plainfield and South Plainfield.

Applicants are chosen on their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, SAT scores, personal essay, recommendations and financial need. Scholarship brochures, detailing requirements on how to apply, are available from the Guidance Director's office.

Comcast Corporation, the parent of Comcast Cablevision of New Jersey and Comcast Cablevision of the Plainfields, is principally engaged in the development, management and operation of wired telecommunications including cable television and telephone services.

Volanda King: 'I truly believe in the Dream'

by Jan M. Edgerton Johnson

I am a child of the dream and I believe because I choose to believe, said Volanda King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to a capacity crowd at the Newark Club on Friday. "And you can choose to believe too. You can choose patience over impatience, action over inaction, peace over anger and belief over disbelief. Individual choice is what makes each person unique."

Ms. King cautioned against those who choose complacency saying conditions have been like that forever and nothing's going to change. "I believe peace with just will be realized...I am a card carrying member of the dream."

Ms. King went on to tell the audience we are the children of people who chose to survive the capture and middle passage, slavery, Jim Crow laws, and blatant discrimination and unequal treatment under the law.

On Jim Crow she commented that he (Jim Crow) is dead, but his grandchild, J. Crow, Esquire is alive and well.

Surrogate sacrifice is how Ms.

King described the popular practice of black folk letting a few do the work while pulling the rest along. "The vote doesn't work because we don't work it," she said. "We don't demand that whoever in office makes good on his or her promises or offers a platform where our issues and needs are addressed." Ms. King suggested getting involved with groups that are working and helping to revive those who aren't.

On the King holiday itself, Ms. King said that it is about service. She stated that her father always said, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

She told the audience that the King holiday is not a day to take off and shop, but a day for action, reflection, and service. "On King day, choose to help somebody," she said.

The 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast was sponsored by the YMWCA of Newark and vicinity. Participants in the program were Milton Harrison, president and CEO and board members, Cherran Evans, David Weiner, chairman and Rev. Willie A. Simmons, assistant pastor of First Corinthian Church.



Volanda King speaks at the YMWCA of Newark breakfast

Photo by Glen Frieson

Smith-Bucco Bill appropriating \$4.4 million for historic preservation projects wins release

TRENTON—Thirteen historic preservation projects in northern New Jersey would be eligible to receive state Green Acres funding under the provisions of a bill sponsored by Assemblymen Tom Smith and Anthony R. Bucco that was released today from an Assembly committee.

Smith said the bill would appropriate \$4,423,989 from the Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992. The bond act authorized the issuance of \$345 million in general obligation bonds for a variety of environmental projects and \$25 million for historic preservation. Smith said the bill includes \$1,245,000 for renovations to the Asbury Park Convention Hall and Paramount Theater.

"This historic landmark is in dire need of essential repairs and maintenance," said Smith, R Monmouth. Preservation New Jersey named the Asbury Park Convention Hall as one of the 10 Most Endangered Historic sites in our state, which is a testament to the need for this project. The convention hall recently benefited from the restoration and reopening of the Paramount Theater, but more work is needed in order restore its original grandeur."

Smith said the convention hall was built between 1928 and 1930 as part of an ambitious effort to establish Asbury Park as the preeminent urban resort along the Jersey Shore.

"The Asbury Park Convention Hall is an important part of the city's past and hopefully a part of its future,"

Smith added. "These funds will help continue the process of repairing and preserving one of the most prominent buildings along the New Jersey coast."

Bucco called the \$4.4 Million bond appropriation an investment in New Jersey's past and its future.

"If we were to let New Jersey's historic past slip away, we will have denied our children and grandchildren the opportunity to learn about our state's prominent place in history," said Bucco, R-Morris. "Preserving historic structures and sites throughout our state is an important task that should not be overlooked or taken for granted."

Councilman supports new private school

NEWARK—The New Hope Development Corporation headed by the Reverend Dr. Charles E. Thomas, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, plans to open New Hope Academy, a school for children in grades K through Eight in Newark's Central Ward. A site for the proposed school has been identified and the NHDCC has filed for \$1.4 million in grant money to bring the building up to code for operation as a school.

NHDCC currently owns and operates New Hope Village, a 160 unit housing development and the New Hope Day Care Center which provides child care for 78 families.

Central Ward Councilman, George Branch, fully supports their efforts. "There are so many other stimuli and distractions with which young people must contend that schools not only must endeavor to teach but also have to develop attributes that help students negotiate the ever changing social terrain," Branch explained. He believes that institutions like New Hope Academy could be an answer.

"All of us need to ask of ourselves, 'What can I do?' New Hope

has done just that. In the current climate of budget cuts and diminishing schools funding, now more than ever, we need to create an environment where our children can not only compete but excel. It is paramount that when it comes to education and personal discipline we not just hold our children's feet to the fire but also our own," Branch said.

In addressing the City Council last Wednesday, NHDCC officials explained that New Hope Academy will provide "quality teaching" and a balanced and well rounded education that many families seek in private schools outside of the city.

The building proposed as the future home of the Academy is currently being used by New Hope as a site to provide clothing to the needy and a facility to feed the hungry (19,000 in 1995). It has also been used to provide job training and skills to men and women throughout Essex County.

Pending the award of the grant, New Hope looks to operate two kindergarten classes in the Fall of 1998 and expand shortly thereafter.

Twin award announces 1997 scholarships

PLAINFIELD—The TWIN Management Forum (TMF) of Central New Jersey, a network of executive and professional women who have received the Tribute to Women and Industry (Twin) Award, announces its 1997 Scholarship Program. At least two awards of up to \$1,000 each for educational-related expenses will be given.

Scholarship candidates must be women and must demonstrate financial need and realistic goals. College work, or vocational and technical school training, must be at an undergraduate level and needed for entry or re-entry into the work place. The award is not for new high school graduates.

Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Women living in

an area served by the Central NJ TWIN project are eligible to apply. These areas include Somerset, Union, Middlesex counties and portions of Hunterdon, Morris, Essex and Monmouth Counties.

To obtain an application, contact Janet Korba, Director, TWIN Program, 232 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, phone (908) 756-3836. Completed applications must be received by March 29, 1997. Awards will be given in May.

In addition to financial support, the TMF Scholarship winners can benefit from the mentoring program offered by TMF members. The program provides recipients with an opportunity to learn first hand about career and business issues through a close working relationship with one of the members.

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NOW UNTIL JANUARY 25

NEWARK—The Newark Public Library extends exhibition on "The Vanished First Ward: Newark's Little Italy" at the Main Library, 5 Washington St., on the 2nd & 3rd fl. galleries. For more information, call (201) 733-7798.

NOW UNTIL FEBRUARY 12

POMONA—Richard Stockton College Art Gallery presents "American Dreams" a photography exhibition by Sybil Miller. For more information, call (908) 652-4505.

NOW UNTIL FEBRUARY 16

NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Theatre Co. presents "The Meeting" by Jeff Slatton. This play depicts the meeting of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Harlem hotel room. For more information, call (908) 249-5581.

NOW UNTIL FEBRUARY 23

CLINTON—Hunterson Art Center presents a multimedia exhibition of works of Art 3-5 p.m. For more information call (908) 733-8415.

NOW UNTIL MARCH 9

TRENTON—Recent Paintings by Ann Starkey will be on view at the New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State Street. For information, call (609)292-8464.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

NEW YORK—City Arts presents a special half-hour edition titled "Film & Filmmaking in New York" on Thirteen/WNET station. For more information call (212) 560-3021.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23-MARCH 8

NEW YORK—The Metropolitan Opera Guild presents a new exhibition and sale of rare photographs, autographs, and memorabilia from the master creators and interpreters of Bel canto opera. A reception will open the exhibit at 6:30 p.m. in the Gallery at Lincoln Center. For more information, call Joe McKaughan (516)873-6215.

WAYNE—The William Paterson College of NJ presents classical guitarist Seth Himmelfarb 12:30pm in the Shea Center for Performing Arts on campus. Admission is \$3.00. For more information, call (201) 595-2977.

NEW YORK—Female Singer/Guitarist Rory Block performs at Manny's Car Wash, 1558 Third Ave. For more information, call (212)369-BLUES.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

NEW YORK—The Bill Perry Blues Band performs at Manny's Car Wash, 1558 Third Ave. For more information, call (212)369-BLUES.

BRANCHBURG—Newman and Oltman Guitar Duo performs at Raritan Valley Community College's Edward Nash Theatre, Rt. 28 and Lammington Rd. Show starts at 8 p.m. For more information and tickets, call (908)725-3420.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24-25

NEW YORK—The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture presents "Spoonbread and Strawberry Wine, featuring Norman Jean Darden. For more information, call (212)451-2206.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25-26

NEW YORK—The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture observes the annual Heritage Weekend with exhibitions and programs celebrating the southern roots of African-American heritage. Among the events to be held will be concerts, plays, artist workshops, and an art exhibit, "Bearing Witness", running from Jan. 25-March 26. For more information, call (212)451-2206, Monday through Saturday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

TRENTON—The NJ State Museum exhibits "The Buffalo Soldier" 2 pm at 205 W. State St. For more information call (609) 292-8594.

SAVERVILLE—Comedian Joe Torry (Host, Def Comedy Jam) to perform at Club Bar, Dinner Theatre, Rt. 35. Show starts at 9 pm, with optional dinner being served at 7 pm. For more information call (908)727-3000.

NEW YORK—Little Buster the Soul Brothers performs at Manny's Car Wash, 1558 Third Ave. For more information, call (212)369-BLUES.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25-APR. 27

NEW YORK—The Metropolitan Museum of Art celebrates "Tiepolo and Tiepolo's Venice" with three exhibitions. For more information, call (212) 570-3951.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25-MAY 4

TRENTON—Selection from the Fine Arts Collection, 1969-1996 will be on view at the New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State St. Among the objects are paintings by Milton Avery, John Marin, sculpture by Mel Edwards, and photographs by Gordon Parks and Fred Prince. Admission is free. For more information call (609)292-8464.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

NEWARK—"Sing in Praise of King! The Ninth Annual Tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." will be held at the First Baptist Church, 785 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. William H. Gray II, President/CEO The College Fund/UNCF. For more information, call (201)733-6454.

Fax your events to: 908-754-3400

A plethora of ART in THE ATRIUM

Art In The Atrium, Inc. presents its fifth annual exhibition "This Is Why We Sing," an exhibit of oils, mixed media, watercolors, sculpture and photography at the Atrium Gallery in Morrisown. This inspiring collection of African-American art will be on display for two months, starting January 31 and closing March 28, 1997. Authentic Kenia cloth will also be on display.

An official opening night reception slated for Jan. 31, 1997 will introduce the exhibit. The reception will be for a working dinner on Kenia cloth, given by Joseph Asante of Ghana. It will also serve as an opportunity for art enthusiasts to meet the artists, who will be available during the reception to discuss the motivation and themes inspiring their art, which addresses a broad range of issues and principles affecting America today. Jazz by the Haven Clayette Quartet will enhance this much anticipated evening.

Despite the fact that the artists and art education are facing serious challenges and changes in America today, African-American artists appear to be more prolific than ever. Increased funding of the Fine Arts by Congress, high levels of unemployment and rampant inflation have

not negatively impacted the passion, creativity and prolific nature of these artists. According to Linda Harney, one of the exhibit's organizers, "Art In The Atrium, Inc., is a contemporary non-profit community organization whose primary goal is to promote communication, sensitivity and fellowship within culturally diverse communities through visual arts. We are proud to provide a vehicle through which these artists can exhibit their works."

"This Is Why We Sing" is punctuated by some very interesting works from the easels of arguably three of the most prominent artists of this century, Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence and William Towner. In addition, other established professionals are well represented and always a pleasure to see. Also showcased is an array of emerging talent, such as Alonzo Adams, Richard Hayes, Marian Howard, and Ronald Ritzke, waiting to be recognized and appreciated and this makes it more exciting because of their innate potential. Among the other artists whose works will fill all four floors of the gallery are Venus Blue, Bradford Brown, Dr. Roland Brown, Desiree Cicco, Adger Cowans, Jose Cruz, David Driskell, Darrel Ellis, Frank Frazier, Nora

Green, Steve Green, Davis Hannah, Willa Hayes, Benjamin Hollis Jr., Lester Johnson, Dr. George Lassiter, Michael Lee, Russell Murray-Rondell, Lydia Watson and Sylvester White. Beards have historically been a staple of Art In The Atrium, Inc. exhibitions and the lithograph "Early Carolina Morning" has been selected to whet the viewers' appetites this year.

Lawrence, now in his 70's, has created many large scale series, such as the John Brown series, as well as those which chronicle his experiences in the Coast Guard during WWII, conditions in the South after WWII, and the bombing of Hiroshima. Critics over the years have characterized him as a storyteller and culture keeper. His three drawings in this exhibit are universal. When you view them you come away with a truly universal perspective.

Towner, of Atlanta, demonstrates the training of a perfectionist with six dramatic multi-media pieces that are particularly intriguing. According to Art In The Atrium, Inc. publicist Arthur Bolden, "Towner is a master of many mediums. He handles portraits, human interest situations, landscapes and semiabstracts with astonishing perfection. There are no frills

or decorations adorning his work; everything serves a purpose in developing the atmosphere or mood." One of his latest works, "Sheba," a must see in the exhibition, stands strong and proud, dreadlocks flowing, as if she is looking out over many generations her legacy has spurred to sing.

The Atrium Gallery is located in the Morris County Administration and Records Building on Court Street, Morrisown, New Jersey. Hours are 8:30-5p.m., Monday-Friday. Admission is free. Viewing by courtesy visitors, youth groups, educators, students, artists, community organizations and civic groups is encouraged.



Ester, photograph by Michael Lee

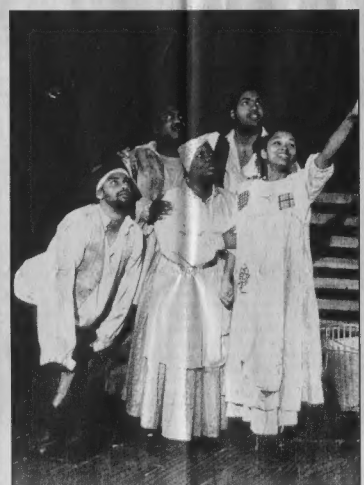
FREEDOM TRAIN MAKES A STOP

AT THE JOHN HARMS THEATER

Freedom Train makes a stop at Englewood's John Harms Theater on Sunday, February 24 at 12 & 3 PM. This Theaterworks/USA production tells the thrilling and courageous story of Harriet Tubman, and the Underground Railroad, through a fascinating series of highly theatrical scenes that use dialogue, mime and traditional music of the period. Freedom Train is the story of self-sacrifice, dedication and survival. It is also laced with warmth and a sense of humor that celebrates the human spirit—a universal story for all ages and races.

Born a slave, Tubman escaped from a Maryland plantation, leaving her family behind. Pursued by dogs and relentless slave catchers, she followed an escape route made up of churches, barns, cellars and homes. This escape route soon became known as the famous Underground Railroad, and she quickly became one of its most celebrated "conductors." Up creek beds, through swamps, over hills in the dark of night, on 19 secret trips Harriet Tubman guided more than 300 slaves, including her aged parents, to freedom. "I never run out of track," she said, "and I never lost a passenger." This is an uplifting story of courage in the face of tremendous adversity.

Award-winning Theaterworks/USA is America's largest and foremost theater for young family audiences. With a repertoire of 70 plays and musicals created by known and new playwrights, composers and ly-



cists, Theaterworks has presented more than 31,000 performances to over 25 million people across the country.

John Harms Theater is located in Englewood. All seats are \$10!

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

ENGLEWOOD—Mention African song and most Americans will think of the traditional music of South African vocal masters Ladysmith Black Mambazo. This phenomenal 10-man chorus from South Africa sang with Paul Simon on *Graceland*, performed on Broadway and appeared on Sesame Street. This inspirational singing group will bring its unique, a cappella, dreamlike sound to the John Harms Theater on Sunday, February 16 at 3 PM.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo puts on a dynamic show using colorful choreography, sophisticated arrangements and humor which transcend cultural boundaries, a dazzling combination that moves audiences to their feet. Ultimately, the sheer beauty of their voices and the vitality of the group's visual presence have come to represent the traditional culture of South Africa.

The traditional music sang by Ladysmith Black Mambazo is called *isicathamiya*. It was born in the mines of South Africa, where black workers were taken by train far away from their families to live in poor conditions and work six days a week. At the end of each week, the miners gathered to sing songs. They called themselves *colonyas*, *refosha*, or "hip too guys," referring to the dance steps choreographed around their security guards. When the miners returned to the homelands, the singing and dancing tradition survived with



South African vocal masters Ladysmith Black Mambazo

them. It became a fierce, but much anticipated social competition throughout the townships. Ladysmith Black Mambazo was formed by Joseph Shabalala after he was inspired by a dream he had in 1964, in which he saw and heard a group of children singing. Herculean members of his immediate family for this new singing group, asking his brothers Headman and Jockey, two cousins, and eventually, a third brother to join him.

The name Ladysmith Black Mambazo came about as a result of the group's winning every singing competition it entered. Ladysmith is the name of the Shabalala's hometown. Black refers to the strong black oxen of the farm; the Zulu word *mambazo* refers to an ox, symbolizing the group's ability to "chop down" its competition. Eventually, Mambazo was forbidden to enter any more competitions because they were so good. Tickets are \$28, \$25, \$21 and \$18, and can be ordered by phone at (210) 567-3600. Or visit the Box Office at 30 North Van Brunt Street, Englewood, between 11:00 AM and 6 PM, Monday through Saturday.

Joe Torry set to play at Club Bene



Comedian Joe Torry

Your invited to a family-oriented African-Caribbean dance program

A part of the 1997 African American History Celebration



Group Two Dada will perform African-Caribbean dances at the Monmouth County Park System's 1997 African American History Celebration

MIDDLETOWN—On Sunday, January 26 at 3pm, the Monmouth County Park System will present a cultural celebration of dance at the Tatam Park Activity Center on Red

linked together by their common heritage. Audience involvement will be encouraged as participants learn about the roots of the music, the types of instruments used, and the meaning of

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| The Priory Restaurant 7300 p.m. St. Joseph Plaza, 233 W. Market St., Newark, NJ (201) 242-8012 The Bud Light Jazz Series presents: IN THE ATRIUM NO COVER CHARGE | |
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| Feb. 14, 21 Blues Wing with vocalist, Skip Roberts | Feb. 16 & 23 Betty DuChanter |

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